



Youth Opportunities PROGRAM

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Missouri Department of
Economic Development



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Pursuant to Sections 135.460, 620.1100, and 620.1103, RSMo., the Youth Opportunities and Violence Prevention Program (YOP) is authorized to allocate up to \$6 million in tax credits per calendar year for projects that target Missouri's at-risk youth. During the 2024 cycle, the Department of Economic Development (DED) allocated a total of \$6 million in YOP tax credits to 37 youth organizations across the state. Contributions to these organizations will fund programming for 34 youth service projects and construction at three facilities. The 2024 project list is enclosed.

YOP projects approved in 2024 have the potential to generate \$12 million in contributions, leveraging at least \$62 million in private sector dollars.

Since its inception in 1997, YOP has facilitated more than \$231 million in contributions for projects serving Missouri's most at-risk youth.

YOP primarily partners with nonprofit organizations to fund programs for disadvantaged youth, teaming up to leverage private dollars instead of relying solely on public/government funding. These programs help youth break down barriers to a healthy, successful

life and realize their potential as productive citizens. YOP acts as an incentive to provide this specialized programming for youth who would otherwise not have such opportunities.

YOP has established program outcomes as a means to measure and verify the program's impact throughout the state. Priority is given to projects with outcomes impacting one or more of the following five areas:

1. Increase the number of at-risk youth who receive a high school diploma.
2. Increase the number of at-risk youth who receive a high school equivalency.
3. Increase the number of at-risk youth who remain in school, improve grades, and/or earn course credit(s) toward a diploma.
4. Reduce the number of at-risk youth committing crimes and violent acts.
5. Increase the number of at-risk youth that have completed an employment skills education and workforce development program.

Table 1.1 shows the amount of tax credits authorized, issued, and redeemed to date from allocations made in the most recent three calendar years. Taxpayers (donors) have the tax year in which they contributed plus five succeeding tax years to redeem their tax credits.

TABLE 1.1: TAX CREDIT UTILIZATION

| | CY2022 | CY2023 | CY2024 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Credits Authorized to Date ¹ | \$5,694,817 | \$5,999,139 | \$6,000,000 |
| Credits Issued to Date ² | \$4,247,722 | \$3,292,665 | \$766,118 |
| Credits Redeemed to Date ³ | \$144,152 | \$78,959 | \$500 |

1. Credits Authorized = Total Amount Authorized each calendar year minus recaptured, as of 1/3/2025.

2. Credits Issued = Total Credits issued as of 1/3/2025 for the projects approved in each calendar year.

3. Credits Redeemed = Total Credits that have been redeemed by contributing taxpayers as of 1/3/2025 for contributions made to projects approved in each year.

For projects approved in the calendar year, YOP reports on the anticipated number of youth achieving positive outcomes in the categories identified below.

TABLE 1.2: EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH

| | |
|---|--------|
| Earning a High School Diploma or Equivalency | 45,298 |
| Earning School Credits, Improving Academically, or Increasing GPA | 25,612 |
| Not Committing Crimes or Completing Violence Prevention Courses | 15,233 |
| Abstaining from Drug and Alcohol Use; Completing Prevention Programs | 792 |
| Completing Life Skills Training; Financial Literacy; Participating in Mentoring | 1,020 |
| Learning Employment Skills and/or Placed in a Job or Internship | 50,110 |
| Increasing Knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and/or Business | 384 |
| Achieving Other Outcomes (Such as: counseling, crisis intervention and emergency shelter, post-secondary knowledge and preparation, case management, etc.) | 57,049 |

Missouri nonprofit organizations are successfully implementing approved YOP projects to help at-risk youth become productive adults. Capital City Special Learning Center and Youth In Need are two such organizations successfully using YOP tax credits to cultivate new donors, increase reach and capacity, and contribute in a very real way to meet the needs of disadvantaged youth. The following summaries demonstrate how these agencies are making positive, lasting differences in the lives of Missouri's most at-risk youth.



Capital City Special Learning Center

WHO THEY ARE

Capital City Area Council for Special Services dba Special Learning Center (SLC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping youth with diverse developmental abilities reach their full potential. Since 1985, SLC has served as a trusted resource for families across 11 central Missouri counties, providing a unique blend of therapy, education, care, and support under one roof. Each year, the organization touches the lives of more than 900 children and their families, creating a safe and welcoming space where every child has the opportunity to grow, thrive, and succeed.

WHAT THEY DO AND WHO THEY SERVE

Special Learning Center's programs are designed to address the unique challenges faced by children

with developmental disabilities or delays while helping them unlock new abilities and achieve their goals. In addition to physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy services, SLC's early childhood special education classrooms focus on building the skills children need to succeed in school and beyond. Teachers and therapists collaborate to create individualized plans that help children improve cognitive, social, and emotional development. This well-rounded approach not only prepares children for the next steps in their education, but also builds the confidence they need to thrive in everyday life.

SLC serves children of all abilities, with a focus on those facing developmental challenges such as autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and

other conditions that require specialized care. For many families in central Missouri, SLC is the only resource offering this level of comprehensive multidisciplinary support. The impact of SLC's work can be seen in the milestones their children achieve—whether it's saying their first words, standing on their own, or making meaningful connections with peers. By equipping children with the skills and tools they need to live more independent, fulfilling lives, SLC creates ripples of change that extend beyond individual families.



GROWING STRONG WITH SLC BLAYKE'S JOURNEY

At their 20-week ultrasound, Blayke's family received unexpected news: their baby girl was diagnosed with Down syndrome, along with an atrioventricular septal defect (AVSD). This heart defect, which meant her heart wasn't fully formed, would require critical surgery around four months of age. For Blayke's family, Down syndrome became secondary; their greatest hope was for her to be healthy and strong enough to undergo heart surgery.

Blayke spent 47 days in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and came home with a gastrostomy tube (G-tube) to help her grow and prepare for surgery. On February 15, 2021, she underwent open-heart surgery and amazed everyone with her strength, spending just eight days in the hospital to recover.

After surgery, Blayke was able to fully engage in therapy sessions and began reaching exciting milestones. But her family saw the most incredible progress when she started attending the Special Learning Center. With the care and expertise of the SLC team, Blayke achieved meaningful goals that improved her quality of life. Her speech and vocabulary grew, she learned to drink from a straw so she could transition off her G-tube, and she built the strength and confidence to walk on her own.

Blayke continues to thrive and grow with the ongoing support of SLC's programs. Her journey is a beautiful reminder of how Special Learning Center helps children reach their fullest potential and creates a lasting impact for families in our community.





Youth In Need

WHO THEY ARE

Youth In Need (YIN) is a nonprofit child and family services agency that is dedicated to building positive futures for the community's most vulnerable children, teens, and families. Youth In Need's mission is to build upon the strengths of children, youth, and families so they find safety, hope, and success in life. They have been serving the greater St. Louis area since 1974 and today serve more than 8,000 of the area's most vulnerable children, teens, and families at nearly 100 locations in six counties in eastern Missouri. YIN locations are in the City of St. Louis and in St. Louis, St. Charles, Lincoln, Warren, and Montgomery counties.

WHAT THEY DO AND WHO THEY SERVE

Youth In Need's core programming is focused on prevention, family strengthening, and crisis intervention. This programming includes Head Start and Early Head Start, Community and School-Based Counseling, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Living Program, Maternity Group Home, Support Apartments Program, Street Outreach Program, and Foster Care Case

Management. Youth In Need is also a national Safe Place provider.

With YOP tax credits, Youth In Need provides life-changing crisis interventions and transition services that transform ongoing conflict into safety and success throughout life through the agency's Community-Based Counseling, Street Outreach Program, and Emergency Shelter/Transitional Living Program. Youth In Need's Community-Based Counseling is a tool used to engage in healthy and open communication with individuals, families, and groups to navigate life's changes and challenges. Youth in Need's residential programs provide stable and safe environments for youth experiencing crises in their lives. Transitional group homes and supported apartments offer unhoused youth an opportunity to learn independent living and life skills. Programs like the Street Outreach Program and the Safe Place Program work in tandem to keep youth off the street, find safety, and provide them with needed items such as food, clothing, and hygiene items.

FINDING STABILITY AND SUPPORT WITH YIN NATASHA'S STORY



Natasha came to us after becoming homeless following the passing of her mother. She was referred to us by her school counselor and had been moving from state to state and house to house for quite some time. After arriving at Youth In Need, Natasha stayed in our Transitional Living Group Home while she completed high school. Upon graduating, Natasha received a track scholarship to a college in Ohio.

During school breaks and summertime, she would return to Youth In Need and stay at our Group Home. A few of our board members connected with another nonprofit organization to secure a car for Natasha, which helped her travel back and forth during her breaks. Natasha graduated from college in 2021 and recently got married in 2023.



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| CY 2024 Approved YOP Projects | Credits Authorized |
|---|--------------------|
| A Million Stars, Inc. | \$149,999 |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri | \$200,000 |
| Boys and Girls Club of Poplar Bluff | \$150,000 |
| Boys and Girls Clubs of the Columbia Area | \$200,000 |
| Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City | \$200,000 |
| Boys Hope Girls Hope of St. Louis, Inc. | \$199,999 |
| Capital City Area Council for Special Services | \$199,848 |
| Cardinal Glennon Children's Foundation | \$87,640 |
| Center of Creative Arts | \$200,000 |
| CHADS Coalition for Mental Health | \$120,000 |
| Children's Home Society of Missouri | \$200,000 |
| Communities In Schools of Mid-America, Inc. | \$114,088 |
| Community Living, Inc. | \$30,000 |
| Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri | \$112,600 |
| Cornerstone Center for Early Learning | \$200,000 |
| Cornerstones of Care | \$124,895 |
| Covenant House Missouri | \$200,000 |
| Foster Care Coalition of Greater St. Louis, Inc. | \$200,000 |
| Gene Slay's Girls and Boys Club of St. Louis, Inc. | \$199,670 |
| Gordon Parks Elementary School | \$194,000 |
| Home Works-THVP. | \$25,170 |
| Kingdom House | \$199,971 |
| Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri | \$200,000 |
| Mission: St. Louis | \$156,258 |
| Osage Prairie Young Men's Christian Association, Inc. | \$200,000 |
| PreventEd | \$56,343 |
| reStart, Inc. | \$200,000 |
| Sherwood Forest Camp, Inc. | \$196,602 |
| St. Louis Arc, Inc. | \$200,000 |
| St. Louis Counseling, Inc. | \$100,000 |
| St. Louis Crisis Nursery | \$200,000 |
| The Oasis Institute | \$111,656 |
| The Wyman Center, Inc. | \$199,742 |
| Urban Sprouts Child Development Center | \$200,000 |
| Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis | \$100,000 |
| Whole Kids Outreach, Inc. | \$199,952 |
| Youth In Need | \$171,567 |